

Yuan was stripped of his power but not deprived of his head. Even though he was a prisoner of the peculiar wording of the imperial decree, which relieved him of his duties as senior guardian of the heir apparent on the humane ground that he was suffering from rheumatism, Yuan took the hint, screwed his face up to a grimace, and obediently obeyed to the Prince Regent and shuffled back to the old home in Honan. With the appearance of an intensely suffering victim of the disease which had been designated in the imperial edicts.

At the obscurity of Honan he watched developments in the south, where signs and portents were beginning to appear on the horizon. And he occasionally watched Canton. And he occasionally watched Canton.

Now Canton is the cultural as well as the commercial center of China. Canton is the place that Cantonese considered itself to be. Yuan was one of a most of the publishing houses quit the Hub and came here. Canton is remote from direct Manchu influences. It is the center of an almost pure Chinese population. And above all, it is the home of the great scholar of Sun Yat-sen, who was destined to exert a profound influence upon the present fortunes of the man of Honan.

Yuan Shikai, with a twist of gaze at the windows of Sun Yat-sen's Canton, with the epidemic war and the Western education was very busy in 1909. He was writing articles for various papers in China, in which he called attention to the intolerable conditions of the old China, and he was completing to the same purpose.

Yuan, who had a fine sense of feeling and atmosphere, now that Sun was gone, he realized that the merchant class of the southern provinces, and especially of Canton, were completely devoted to all China and to their money but with their eyes. He also saw that Prince Chun

Woo-hang and thus to align himself definitely with the Manchu cause. Yuan was still a young man. He told Ching that he was still suffering from rheumatism, and he begged to be excused. Prince Chun made his offer more attractive. He mentioned the premiership to Yuan. Yuan immediately got rid of his rheumatism. He was the first to take the leading part in one of the most remarkable political dramas ever staged, a drama which lacked the element of Oriental intrigue.

When Yuan arrived at the northern capital there was already a southern capital. There was some the center of a full blown revolution. The center of the guilds and worked upon in friendly manner by the Western world but decidedly frowned upon by China neighbor, Japan.

Yuan grappled with the situation. He tried to get the Manchu to fight the Republicans with what he felt like his old time loyalty to the Manchus. Prince Chun began to breathe easier. All the Manchus assumed more cheerful look.

Yuan's sense of the importance of the center of military power in the province back in 1901 showed the sense incapable of achieving result. So feeble was the resistance which he offered to the rebels in fact that Yuan was able to point out to the Cantonese and their leader, a little later that the imperial soldiers had been cautious not to fight too hard.

While the imperial forces were showing a singularly retiring disposition their contacts with the enemy Yuan Shikai executed one of those political maneuvers which showed that he was a man of a high degree of intelligence. He informed the Manchus that the situation was up unless they eloped him a plenty powers to deal with the rebels. By way of laying a foundation for new order of things he denosed his enemy, Prince Chun. This act of feigning to be followed by summoning a fan-

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Yuan Shih-k'ai